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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for providing usage information of a first web site designated by a user, the method comprising:

receiving, from the user, a designation of the first web site as a homepage monitored website, wherein the homepage monitored website is any web site on a communication network;

monitoring usage of the homepage monitored website by a plurality of users; and

transmitting data representative of the usage to the user by way of a monitor window when the user is connected to a any other website on the communication network.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

displaying to the user the usage information in a graphical format.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

displaying to the user the usage information in a text format.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the usage information is displayed automatically to the user.

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11. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the usage information is displayed only upon a command generated by the user.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

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14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method for providing usage information of a first web site designated by a user, the method comprising:

receiving, from the user, a designation of the first web page as a homepage monitored website wherein the homepage monitored website is any web site on a communication network;

monitoring usage of the homepage monitored website by a plurality of users; and
transmitting data representative of the usage to the user by way of a monitor window when the user is connected to any other website on the communication network.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing usage information of a first web site designated by a user, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory storing processing instructions for controlling the processor, the processor operative with the processing instructions to:

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receive, from the user, a designation of the first web page as a homepage monitored website wherein the homepage monitored website is any web site on a communication network; monitoring usage of the homepage monitored website by a plurality of users; and transmitting data representative of the usage to the user by way of a monitor window when the user is connected to any other website on the communication network.

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16-19 (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the usage information comprises of an indication of a most-popular next-visited web site for the plurality of users; an indication of web sites visited by the plurality of users prior to visiting the first web site; and an indication of when and for how long the plurality of users visited the first web site.

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